

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The third annual stated meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists will be held at the United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., May 2 to 4, 1921. This is by far the most pleasant season of the year for a visit to Washington. The complete success of the second annual meeting in New York last spring makes it certain that there will be a large attendance, and a full and interesting program, with added social features, is expected. Announcements giving full particulars will be mailed by the corresponding secretary to all members.

From the suggestions for change of style for the Journal of Mammalogy made by members of the Society during the past year, four plans have been approved by the committee on publications. These are: (1) Whenever possible the descriptions of illustrations shall appear as legends under the plates instead of in a special "explanation of plates." (2) Author's address shall be printed after each regular article or general note. (3) In listing titles under "Recent Literature," instead of repeating author's name, when there are two or more titles, use a long dash. (4) Print brief reports of the activities of Sections of the American Society of Mammalogists, signed by the secretaries of such sections.

A full and ready response should be made to Mr. A. B. Howell's request, in the correspondence department of this issue of the Journal, for information regarding the private collections of mammals in North America. The statistics gathered by such a census will furnish valuable and interesting data. Let every member of the Society and reader of the Journal who has a study collection of mammal skins and skulls, no matter how small or how local it may be, write to Mr. Howell at once. The editor would suggest that the census be not restricted to private collections, but include all collections in universities, museums, and public institutions as well. The more information that is given regarding the extent and scope of each collection the more useful will Mr. Howell's final report be to all, and most of the members of the Society will be interested in knowing something of the size of our larger American collections, as well as what regions they particularly cover.

Many libraries nowadays bind scientific serial publications with all the covers in place. Those who do much work with bound volumes of journals appreciate the many advantages of this system and always encourage its use. The colored covers of heavier paper help one to find the initial page of the number or part one wishes to cite, and they make more readily accessible the date of publication of any particular page. It was a common practice at one time to destroy the original covers when the parts were assembled for binding, and in many an old volume the lack of these covers is now a distinct loss. The later idea of binding the covers at the back was a step in the right direction, and the modern idea of leaving each brochure intact, exactly as received, is a still greater improvement. With this idea in mind the Journal of Mammalogy will issue the title page for each volume as a separate sheet, to be mailed with the first number of the succeeding volume. The index for the entire year will be printed in its proper place

in the last issue, and there will be no necessity to mutilate any number when the volume is sent to the binder.

It may be argued that the danger of loss of the separate title page is a disadvantage, but it is believed that the chances of this are small, and after all the lack of the title page in a bound volume would not be a serious matter. It would be far outweighed by the knowledge that each separate number is in the exact form as received from the publisher, and that each plate and page is in its right place. One advantage in having the title page mailed with the first number of the succeeding volume, rather than with the last number of the volume with which it belongs, is that the actual date of publication of each number may be listed in it. This advantage of having the exact date of publication of each page readily obtainable in a uniform place in each bound volume will be appreciated by those using library sets of the Journal in the years to come.

—N. H.